



Destinations

Tucson Department
of Transportation

Bringing Life To Transportation

Vol. 2: No. 1

The latest information from the Tucson Department of Transportation
www.dot.ci.tucson.az.us

Spring 2004

Traffic Safety Magic
Works Wonders in our Schools

Traffic Safe Kids

Walking home from school. Riding with mom or dad in the car. Playing in the neighborhood. Bicycling to a friend's house. Children are at potential risk from vehicle traffic in dangerous situations everyday.

Safety is the number one concern of the Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT) and we put the safety of our children at the top of the list. So we're helping kids learn how to be safe in and around traffic in a variety of situations by taking our Traffic Safe Kids Program to their classrooms.

Developed by TDOT's Traffic Engineering Division and Public Information Office with lots of help from retired teacher, Dr. Tom Potter, Traffic Safe Kids uses magic, pictures and props to give 3rd graders easy to remember lessons in staying safe around traffic. After seeing the 'show' presented



Dr. Tom Potter teaches traffic safety to students at Ford Elementary School.

by Potter, the students become a members of the Traffic Safe Kids Club and get a traffic safety activity book featuring TDOT representatives Zack Rabbit and Lenny Lizard.

A few slots remain for the spring semester shows. Reservations for the fall semester will be announced this summer. If you know a 3rd grade class that would like to see Tom Potter's traffic safety magic, call 791-4001, ext. 107.

The Traffic Safe Kids activity book is also available on line at www.dot.ci.tucson.az.us. Click Traffic Engineering, then click Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Program.

Understanding our new pedestrian signals

Double Flashing Red Means Stop

When the double red lights of our new **High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk** “HAWK” pedestrian crossings start flashing, what do you do? A number of motorists seem unsure. Here’s how the “HAWK” works.



A pedestrian or bicyclist activates the signal by pressing a button. This activates a **FLASHING YELLOW** beacon warning motorists that they’re approaching a crosswalk. The beacon then changes to a **SOLID YELLOW** advising motorists to prepare to stop. The beacon then displays a **SOLID RED** and the pedestrian is shown a display with a **WALK** symbol. The beacon then displays an **ALTERNATING FLASHING RED** and the pedestrian is shown a **FLASHING DON’T WALK** symbol with a “countdown” signal advising them of the time left to cross. **Drivers are allowed to proceed during the flashing red AFTER COMING TO A FULL STOP and making sure there is no danger to a pedestrian or bicyclist.**

For a copy of TDOT’s “Crossings” brochure that explains the “HAWK” and all the different types of pedestrian and bicycle crossing systems we have in Tucson, call 791-4371.

“City of Tucson at Work” Means it’s a TDOT Project

Ever wonder who’s tearing up the street? It might be TDOT making repairs. It also might be Pima County Transportation or Wastewater, one of our many utility companies – electrical, gas, telephone, cable TV – or fiber optics among others.



To make sure you know when it’s TDOT blocking traffic, we’ve created our “City of Tucson at Work” sign. If you don’t see this sign, it’s not us! Watch for our sign and say hi! And remember to drive slowly and safely in construction zones!

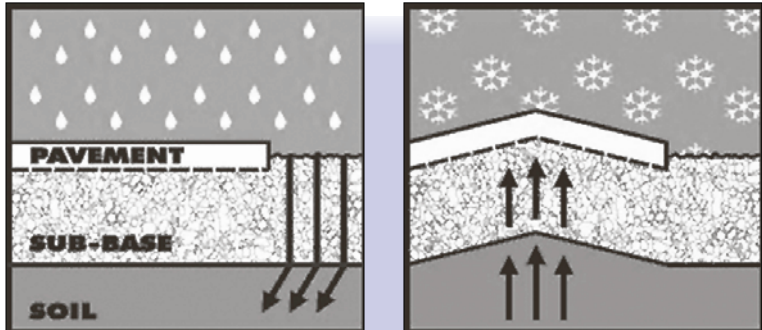
Questions? More Information?

If you have a question about Tucson’s transportation system or if you would like to be added to the *Destinations* mailing list, call 791-4371 or email michael.graham@tucsonaz.gov.

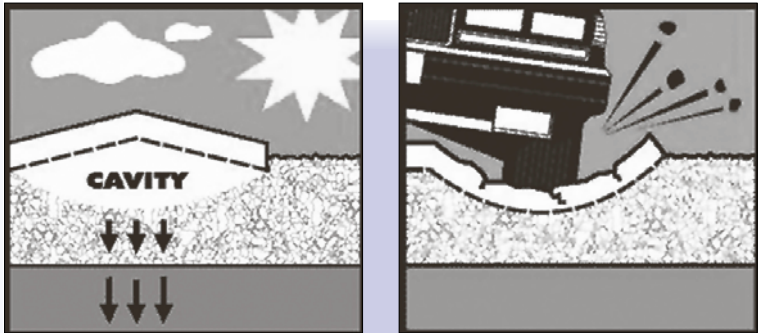
Winter Weather has Brought a Great Crop this Year

Filling You in on Potholes

Aging asphalt, rainwater, freezing temperatures, heavy traffic – the recipe for potholes. Our cold, wet winter helped cook up a bunch of them in our streets and TDOT crews are working hard to get them repaired.



1. A crack in the roadway allows rainwater to soak through the pavement ...
2. The rainwater freezes, causing pavement to buckle up.



3. Warmer temperatures let ground return to normal level, leaving a gap between it and raised pavement.
4. Vehicle cracks raised asphalt, creating pothole!

First priority goes to potholes in major streets where safety is a greater issue because of traffic volume and speed, says Steve Pageau, Deputy Director of TDOT. “There are more potholes this year because our pavement is aging and we don’t have the funds to replace it,” he explains. “We’re out there fixing the worst ones first.”

You can report a pothole to TDOT Streets and Traffic Maintenance Division by calling 791-3154 or 791-3191.

Watch for Construction on...

Campbell Ave. Grant to Elm	Landscaping	April
Country Club Rd. Grant to Pima	Repaving	June
Wetmore Rd. Fairview to Oracle	Widening	June

During these improvements, business access will be maintained to the extent possible with only short, infrequent closures when necessary. Motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians traveling in the work area are asked to please obey all traffic control signs and be alert for construction equipment and personnel working in the area. For more information, visit the TDOT website at www.dot.ci.tucson.az.us.

Attend a CTAC Meeting and Discuss Transportation Issues

TDOT’s Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) meets at 5:30 PM the first Tuesday of each month in the Mayor and Council Chambers in City Hall, 255 West Alameda. CTAC is appointed to provide citizen input on a number of transportation issues and concerns including planning and funding transportation improvements. Interested citizens are welcome to attend.





Jim Glock,
Director of TDOT

Word on the Street

By Jim Glock, Director, Tucson Department of Transportation

During the past several months, there's been a lot of news about transportation in Tucson. We made a very

positive move toward better regional cooperation and funding for transportation and we're launching a new safety program for children. On the other hand, winter brought a fresh crop of potholes and other dangers to our streets as our aging pavement continues to deteriorate for another year. We're addressing these and other challenges to make your travel in Tucson as safe and smooth as possible.

Regional Transportation

Legislation that would create a Regional Transportation authority in Pima County is being considered at the State Legislature. It's a concept that's supported by all the jurisdictions in our region and could bring us a unified approach to solving some of our transportation challenges. The ability to plan regionally would be a great start, letting us take a broader view of our transportation needs than any single jurisdiction can. The Pima Association of Governments would take the lead on this collective effort if it is approved by the legislature.

Tell Us About Your Potholes

Our Streets and Traffic Maintenance staff are working hard to keep up with the potholes caused by our rough winter weather. As you can see from the article in this newsletter, it's a huge job. You can help us by reporting potholes that you see on major streets or in your neighborhood. We'll get to the ones that are the biggest safety issues first, and the others later, but knowing where they are is the first step. With more than 4,400 lane miles of roads and streets in Tucson, it's tough for us to check them all on a regular basis, so we rely on you. Call 791-3154 or 791-3191 to report a pothole. Thanks!

Hats Off to Sun Tran

Sun Tran has been named the 2004 Outstanding Transit Organization by the Arizona Transit Association. The award is partially in recognition of Sun Tran's increase in ridership - up 6.5 percent last fiscal year for a total of 15 million passenger trips.

Getting You Out from Behind the Bus

We're starting a program to build bus pullouts on our major streets to help reduce some of the traffic congestion at intersections. Building bus pullouts is complicated by right of way issues in some locations, but in others we'll be able to create them. Remember though, when you are behind a bus, that it represents 40 other vehicles that could be on the street with you if its riders were all drivers!



Jim Glock has lived in Tucson since 1982. He was appointed Director of the Tucson Department of Transportation in 2002.

Email Your Questions

If you have a question you'd like us to address in *Destinations*, email it to me at jim.glock@tucsonaz.gov. Thanks!

